

FORWARD

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to present to you this first edition of the *Directory of Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities Programs (HSHC)*.”

This Directory provides a synopsis of 76 school-based health center programs funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care under the HSHC Program. The school-based health centers highlighted in this directory provide a comprehensive array of services to children and adolescents who might not ordinarily have access to primary health and mental health services.

School-based health centers have become an asset to school instructors, since the lack of primary care provisions can negatively impact children’s learning in the school setting. Children’s access to health care services can be compromised with such barriers as poverty, a lack of health insurance, and a shortage of primary care providers. With the inclusion of primary care services and health education programs in school settings, children and adolescents’ access to health services are improved. The HSHC is part of HRSA’s ongoing commitment to provide comprehensive primary care services to underserved children and youth. Additionally, the BPHC’s HSHC program supports the school-based health center as a significant vehicle to accomplish its mission to achieve 100 percent access and 0 health disparities.

As indicated in this directory, the underlying objective of the HSHC program is to establish comprehensive school-based health centers which improve the health status and readiness to learn for vulnerable children and adolescents through primary care, counseling, mental and dental health services, and health education. Programs incorporated in this directory can be adopted in other communities. Therefore, this publication is intended to be a reference tool for programs serving the health care needs of children and adolescents.

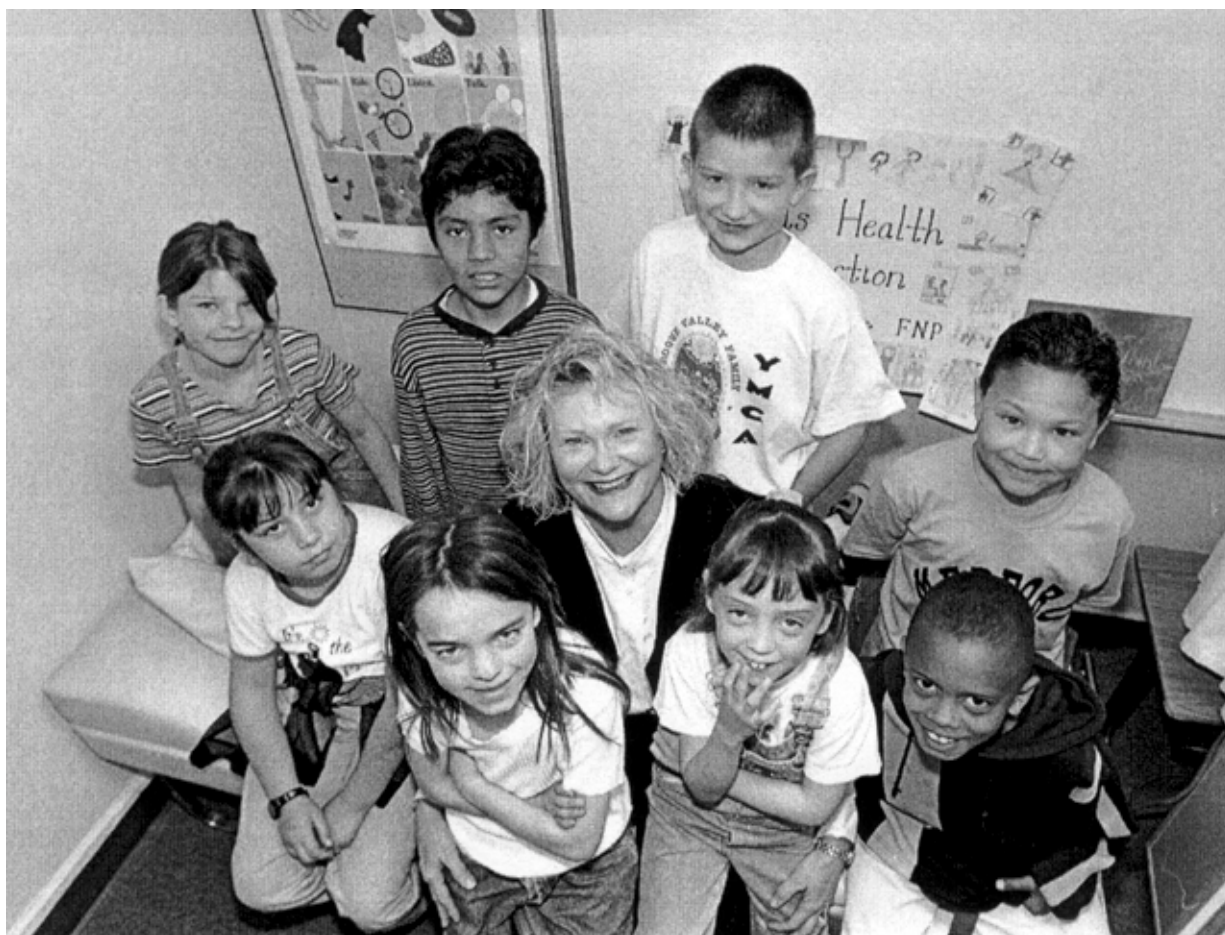
If you would like to receive additional copies of the *Directory of Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities Programs*, please contact the National Clearinghouse for Primary Care Information at 1-800-400-BPHC.

Sincerely yours,

Marilyn Hughes Gaston, M.D.
Assistant Surgeon General

CENTER FOR SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH

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